

## **Closing Remarks – Dr Andre Vugayabagabo**

Executive Director of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute  
Chief Agricultural Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Belize  
Representatives of the Director of the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI)  
Staff of CFNI, CARDI and my colleague from CTA  
Members of the Media – not invited but we'll see  
Honourable Guests  
Participants  
Ladies and Gentlemen

We have arrived at the end of this Seminar on the Role of Information and Communication Tools for Implementation of Food and Nutrition Plans in the Caribbean Region but in the light of our deliberations and challenges that we are facing in terms of FNS, my impression is that our work has only just begun.

Over the last five days, we have discussed a number of challenges facing the Caribbean Region in Food and Nutrition Security with of course a clear and legitimate emphasis on Nutrition and other related issues.

These exchanges gave us background to discuss and identify information needs and subsequently Information and Communication tools needed to meet different types of information and strengthen communication in the areas identified.

In the previous session, we discussed and adopted the summary report of the Seminar, which presented details of the different information needs and information tools required for implementing Food and Nutrition Plans in the Caribbean.

I am pleased to note your commitment to translating the different conclusions and recommendations formulated during this meeting into action.

I can reassure you again that CTA will lend its support in the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations that are within its mandate.

This will be done through its partnerships in the region which include CARDI, CFNI and other Regional and International institutions that are involved in Food and Nutrition Security programmes in the Caribbean Region.

In terms of outputs, CTA will in the short term plan take actions on the following aspects:

- (a) Daily Reports which were prepared and which you have received have been placed in CTA's website and will be available there along the electronic copies of any documents we have from this Seminar.
- (b) A Synthesis Report similar to that of Maputo Seminar will be prepared and made available within the month.
- (c) CTA in close collaboration with CARDI and CFNI will also undertake to prepare a more comprehensive report of the Seminar which will be sent to all participants.
- (d) Through its newest web portal, The Electronic Resource Centre, ANANCY, CTA is incorporating a number of supports. On our return, we will discuss the services that may be made available and we will keep you informed as the services available to support this community through ANANCY.
- (e) Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to say something about our SPORE Bulletin. For Caribbean to have a voice, it must make itself heard, CTA can help to do this but we need your HELP. We need more content from the Caribbean in SPORE, our Newsletter which goes to over 30,000 subscribers and is read by over 1,000,000 persons we need your stories, your achievements as well as access to your resources;

Executive Director of CARDI, Chief Agriculture Officer, CFNI's Representative, Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen, may I take this opportunity to thank you again, the Government of Belize for making the necessary arrangements to ensure the success of this seminar.

My colleague Karen and I would like to express our gratitude to CARDI and CFNI for their commitment and support in the preparation and organisation of the Seminar.

May I also take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the media for having covered the Seminar but more importantly for having participated in and contributed to the discussions.

In this regard, I wish to acknowledge the contribution of my colleague Karen who has pushed for the inclusion and involvement of the media in proceedings such as this.

It was a good opportunity to share together how all stakeholders could collaborate with the Media in order to enhance Food and Nutrition Security in the Caribbean region.

In my view, we should ensure, in future, that Media is not only invited to cover the sessions of the Seminar but also as participants to advise on how we can package the information in a format that will be more useful to them.

Finally, I would like to thank participants for having accepted this invitation from CTA/CARDI and CFNI to attend this Seminar. With your contribution, you have played a key role in achieving concrete conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar.

It is left to me then to wish all of you a safe journey back home.

Thank you for your attention.